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REMARKS

Applicants cancel claims 1, 4, 6, and 15. Claims 2-3, 5, and 7-14 remain pending in the application. Applicants amend claim 7 to independent form, and amend claims 2-3, 5, 8-9, and 13-14 to depend from claim 7. No new matter has been added.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's finding that claim 7 contains allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants amend claim 7 to independent form, and request that the Examiner allow the claim.

Claims 1-6 and 8-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,016,319 to Kshirager et al. Applicants cancel claims 1, 4, 6, and 15, and amend claims 2-3, 5, 8-9, and 13-14 to depend from allowable claim 7. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-3, 5, 8-9, and 13-14, together with claims 10-12 dependent from claim 5, are patentable for at least the same reasons as those for allowable claim 7, from which they depend.

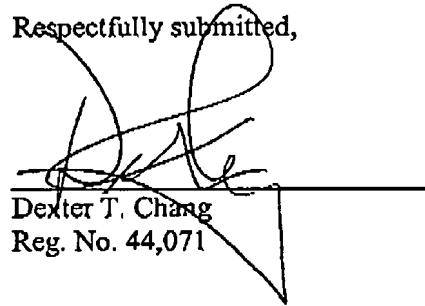
In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

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Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,


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